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Topic: Kids left alone in hot cars

The Dodge County Highway Safety Commission reminds motorists and the general public to be aware of children left alone in vehicles during the hot summer months.

Heatstroke is one of the leading causes of death among children. Unfortunately, even great parents can forget a child in the back seat. Risk factors include caregivers who aren't used to driving kids or whose routine suddenly changes. Whether you're a parent, caregiver or bystander of a child left in a car, it's vitally important to understand children are more vulnerable to heatstroke than adults. Follow these important rules and tips to protect children from heatstroke:

Make it a habit to look before you lock. Never leave a child alone in a car. Do you think heatstroke can happen on a cloudy day? Keep in mind a child's sensitivity to heat; children overheat up to five times faster than adults.

- In 10 minutes, a car's temperature can rise over 20 degrees.
- Even at an outside temperature of 60 degrees, the temperature inside your car can reach 110 degrees.
- A child dies when his/her body temperature reaches 107 degrees.

Preventing Child Heatstroke— Take action if you see a child alone in a car. It's never okay to leave a child alone in a car, even for a few minutes, and even if the car is on. Do not let kids play

in an unattended vehicle. TAKE ACTION if You Notice a Child Alone in a Car! Here's What You Can Do

- Don't wait more than a few minutes for the driver to return.
- If the child is not responsive or is in distress, immediately:
  - Call 911.
  - Get the child out of the car.
  - Spray the child with cool water
- If the child is responsive in the car:
  - Stay with the child until help arrives.
  - Have someone else search for the driver or ask the facility to page them.

Understand the Potential Consequences of Kids in Hot Cars

- Severe injury or death
- Being arrested and jailed
- A lifetime of regret

Protecting children is everyone's business—know what to do if you see a child alone in a car.